

June 3, 2005

Dear Interested Public:

I am please to inform you of the availability of the draft of ***“Landscape Assessment and Forest Management Framework for the Berkshire Ecoregions”***. This document is the second in a series of ecoregion-based assessments that will help guide resource management on forest lands in Massachusetts for the coming years. The document is primarily focused on the physical and natural resources of the five ecoregions within the Berkshire area of western Massachusetts. The assessment / framework is designed to inventory and assess the current state of the natural resources; identify the major issues related to management of the area’s natural resources; and identify opportunities for and recommend courses of action for improving forest and other resource management in the Berkshire Ecoregions.

The *“Landscape Assessment and Forest Management Framework for the Berkshire Ecoregions”* document is available for your review at the EOEa website at www.state.ma.us/envir/forest. We will be accepting comments postmarked by July 20, 2005. If you need a hard copy of the document, please contact Mike Fleming at (508) 792-7423 ext 502.

Please mail all comments to: Mike Fleming
DCR, 180 Beaman Street
West Boylston, MA 01583.

I would also like to invite you to a public meeting scheduled for 6:30 pm on June 22, 2005 at the Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Pittsfield Regional Office. The intent of this meeting is to briefly review the key findings and recommendations, answer your questions, and most importantly, to hear from you.

Thank you for your interest in management issues of Massachusetts’ forests and other natural resources. We look forward to receiving your comments and feedback on the *“Landscape Assessment and Forest Management Framework for the Berkshire Ecoregions”*.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. O’Connor
Director of Forest Policy

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